



Attorney Docket No. 6714/63409  
PATENT

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(W.E.) T.H.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenneth G. Stewart III  
Serial No.: 09/748,281 Art Unit: 3635  
Filed: December 27, 2000 Examiner: Y. Horton  
For: JOIST BRIDGING SYSTEM

AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action of March 22, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

Cancel claims 4, 8, 12 and 16-20 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Amend claims 1 and 2 as follows:

Sub 1 Claim 1 A system for stiffening and securing adjacent joists comprising:

a band having a length of at least the distance spanning three [two] joists,

the band[s] configured to rest upon and be secured to a top edge surface of the at least three [two] joists,

at least two [one] truss members secured to an underside of the band by any one of welding, clips and adhesives so as to lie between the joists and with each truss extending between two joists and with the at least two <sup>truss</sup> members aligned along the band,

the at least two [one] truss members each having vertical sides members,

the at least two [one] truss members each having a length equal to a spacing between joists so that when the bands are secured to a top side of the at least three [two] joists, the side members of each truss member abut sides of [the at least] two joists to hold the at least three [two] joists in a vertical orientation at a specified distance between the at least three [two] joists.